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FROM : AMEMBASSY, MOSCOW

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF :

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)

DATE December 17, 1954

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SUBJECT: KOMMUNIST Article on Relations Between USSR and Finland

Recent developments in Soviet-Finnish relations, as observed from here, indicate that Soviet policy toward Finland continues to be based on the assumption that greater advantage will accrue to the Soviet Union if it exhibits a regard for Finland's independence and develops the close economic and cultural ties of a "good neighbor" than if it were to resort to threats, sanctions, or military measures to achieve direct control of Finland's foreign and domestic policy. That the former of these policies is still in effect was best demonstrated by the juxtaposition of MIKOYAN's official visit to Finland (November 26-December 1) (see also Embassy Despatch 251, December 14, 1954), which served to give public emphasis and recognition to Finland's close ties with the USSR, and the Moscow conference on European security (November 29 - December 2), which by virtue of Finland's non-participation served to illustrate its preservation of an independent foreign policy.

Since future developments, in particular the rearming of West Germany, might tempt the Soviets to include, or persuade them of the necessity of including, Finland in the threatened "bloc defensive arrangements," it is perhaps of interest that there is no locally observable present trend in that direction. On the contrary, an article by E. VOZNESENSKII in the latest issue (No. 17, November, 1954) of KOMMUNIST, a publication of the Communist Party Central Committee, confirms and in effect endorses as "Party line" the present policy toward Finland.

Entitled "Mutual Trust and Friendship--the Basis of Neighborly Relations Between the USSR and Finland," the article states in its opening sentence that such relations "are in accord with the basic national interests of the peoples of both countries" and serve "as convincing evidence of the full practicability of achieving cooperation between states with differing social-economic systems." It does not hide the fact that "enmity and distrust" existed between the two countries for a long time but ascribes this situation to the machinations of "reactionary circles." (The larger part of the article is devoted to a distorted recapitulation of Soviet-Finnish relations from 1905 to 1948 which is unflattering to Germany, England, France, and the United States.) In its concluding section, the article reviews developments since the signing of the 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid, which is described as the "turning point" in Soviet-Finnish relations. The various economic agreements

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